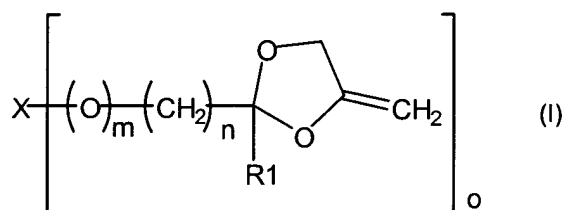


IN THE CLAIMS

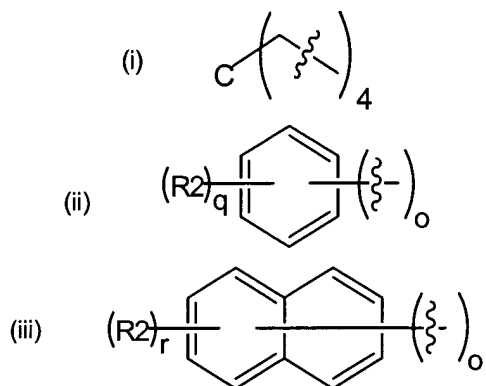
Please cancel claims 3, 4, 10-13, 17, 19, 21, 23 and 25 without prejudice or disclaimer.

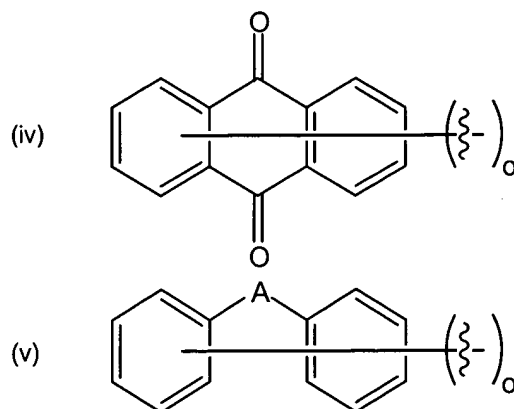
Please amend claims 1, 2, 6, 8 and 24 and add new claims 26-29 as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently amended): A 4-methylene-1,3-dioxolane compound of the general formula (I):



wherein R1 denotes hydrogen, C₅-C₆-cycloalkyl or C₁-C₄-alkyl; m and n, which may be the same or different, denote 0 or 1, wherein m ≤ n, o denotes 2, 3 or 4 depending on the valency of the group X; and X denotes a [[,]] straight-chain when said m denotes 1, or branched C₁-C₁₈-alkylene, C₅-C₆-cycloalkylene, C₈-C₁₈-arylalkylene, -CH₂(OCH₂CH₂)_pOCH₂-, -CH₂(OCH(CH₃)CH₂)_pOCH₂-, wherein p is an integer from 0 to 100, or a group selected from





wherein $q \leq (6-o)$, $r \leq (8-o)$, R_2 denotes H or a C_1 - C_4 -alkyl group and A denotes a single bond or denotes $-C(CH_3)_2-$, $-C(CF_3)_2-$, $-CH_2-$, $-SO_2-$ or $-(C=O)-$, and wherein the 2-position of the 1,3-dioxolane ring is not linked directly to an aromatic group.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): A 4-methylene-1,3-dioxolane compound, selected from the group consisting of:

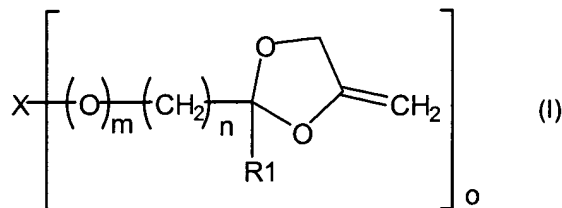
- 1,3-Bis bis-(4-methylene-1,3-dioxolane-2-yl)propane,
- 1,2-bis-(2-methyl-4-methylene-1,3-dioxolane-2-yl)ethane,
- 2,2'-bis-[4-methylene oxyphenyl-(4-methylene-1,3-dioxolane-2-yl)]propane,
- bis-(4-methylene-1,3-dioxolane-2-yl)methane,
- 1,5-bis-(4-methylene-1,3-dioxolane-2-yl)pentane,
- 1,6-bis-(4-methylene-1,3-dioxolane-2-yl)hexane,
- bis-(4-methylene-1,3-dioxolane-2-yl)methylether,

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. **09/934,655**
Amendment filed August 16, 2004
Reply to OA dated **May 19, 2004**

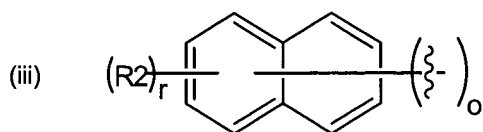
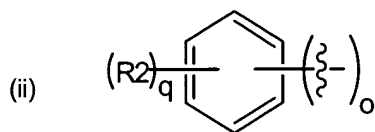
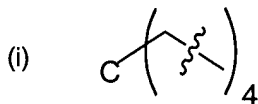
1,3-bis-[(4-methylene-1,3-dioxolane-2-yl)methylene oxy]propane,
tetrakis-[(4-methylene-1,3-dioxolane-2-yl)methylene oxy]neopentane,
1,4-bis-(4-methylene-1,3-dioxolane-2-yl)cyclohexane,
1,2-bis-[(4-methylene-1,3-dioxolane-2-yl)methylene oxy]ethane,
2,2'-bis-[(4-methylene-1,3-dioxolane-2-yl)methylene oxy]ethylether,
1,4-bis-[(4-methylene-1,3-dioxolane-2-yl)ethenyl]benzene,
1,3-bis-[(4-methylene-1,3-dioxolane-2-yl)methylene oxy]benzene,
1,5-bis-[(4-methylene-1,3-dioxolane-2-yl)methylene oxy]naphthalene,
2,2-bis-[4-(4-methylene-1,3-dioxolane-2-yl)methylene oxyphenyl]propane,
bis-[4-(4-methylene-1,3-dioxolane-2-yl)methylene oxyphenyl]methane,
4,4'-bis-[(4-methylene-1,3-dioxolane-2-yl)methylene oxy]biphenyl,
2,6-bis-[(4-methylene-1,3-dioxolane-2-yl)methylene oxy]anthraquinone, and
1,3,5-tris-[(4-methylene-1,3-dioxolane-2-yl)methylene oxy]benzene.

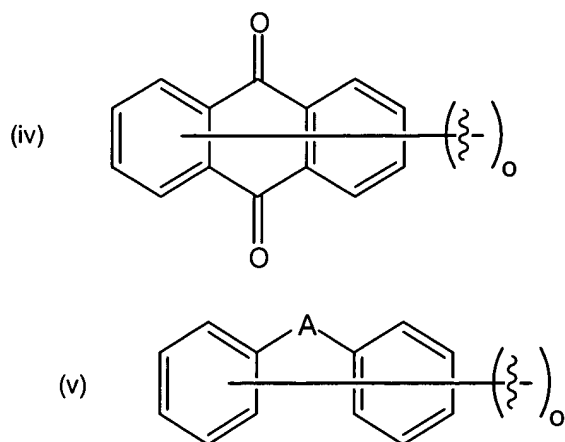
Claims 3-5 (Canceled).

Claim 6 (Currently amended): A process for the production of a 4-methylene-1,3-dioxolane compound of the general formula (I):



wherein R1 denotes hydrogen, C₅-C₆-cycloalkyl or C₁-C₄-alkyl; m and n, which may be the same or different, denote 0 or 1, wherein m ≤ n, o denotes 2, 3 or 4 depending on the valency of the group X; and X denotes a C-C single bond, straight-chain or branched C₁-C₁₈-alkylene, C₅-C₆-cycloalkylene, C₈-C₁₈-arylalkylene, -CH₂(OCH₂CH₂)_pOCH₂-, -CH₂(OCH(CH₃)CH₂)_pOCH₂-, wherein p is an integer from 0 to 100, or a group selected from

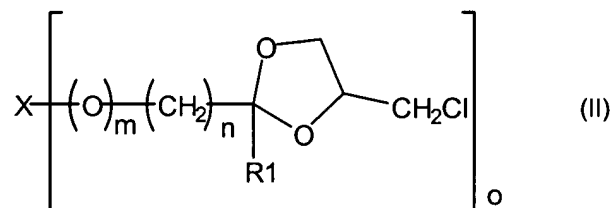




wherein $q \leq (6-o)$, $r \leq (8-o)$, R_2 denotes H or a C_1 - C_4 -alkyl group and A denotes a single bond or denotes $-C(CH_3)_2-$, $-C(CF_3)_2-$, $-CH_2-$, $-SO_2-$ or $-(C=O)-$, and wherein the 2-position of the 1,3-dioxolane ring is not linked directly to an aromatic group,

the process comprising the steps of:

treating a 4-chloromethyl-1,3-dioxolane compound of the general formula (II):



wherein R_1 , m , n , o and X have the same meaning, respectively, as those defined for general formula (I) above,

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/934,655
Amendment filed August 16, 2004
Reply to OA dated May 19, 2004

with a base at a temperature from ~~0°C to 150°C~~ 15°C to 60°C to obtain a reaction product; and

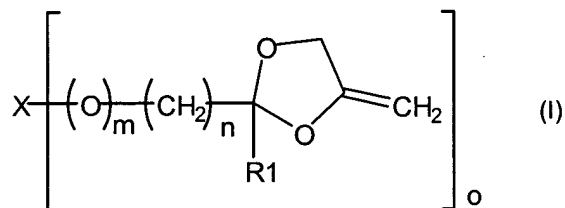
isolating the reaction product in accordance with a *per se* known process

~~wherein the process is implemented at a temperature from 15°C to 60°C.~~

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 6, wherein the treatment is implemented in the presence of a solvent.

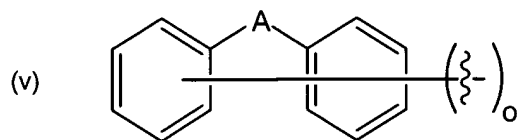
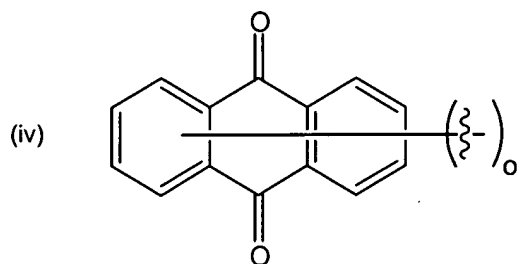
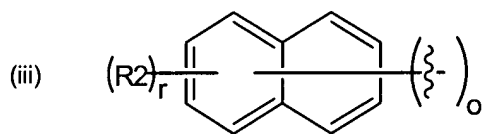
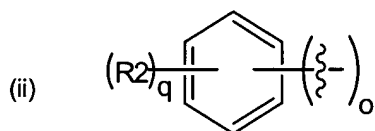
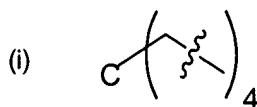
Claim 8 (Currently amended): The process according to claim 7, wherein the solvent is ~~a good solvent for the base~~ an alcohol, an ether, dimethylsulfoxide or dimethylformamide.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): A process for the production of a 4-methylene-1,3-dioxolane compound of the general formula (I):



wherein R1 denotes hydrogen, C₅-C₆-cycloalkyl or C₁-C₄-alkyl; m and n, which may be the same or different, denote 0 or 1, wherein m ≤ n, o denotes 2, 3 or 4 depending on the valency

of the group X; and X denotes a C-C single bond, straight-chain or branched C₁-C₁₈-alkylene, C₅-C₆-cycloalkylene, C₈-C₁₈-arylalkylene, -CH₂(OCH₂CH₂)_pOCH₂-, -CH₂(OCH(CH₃)CH₂)_pOCH₂-, wherein p is an integer from 0 to 100, or a group selected from

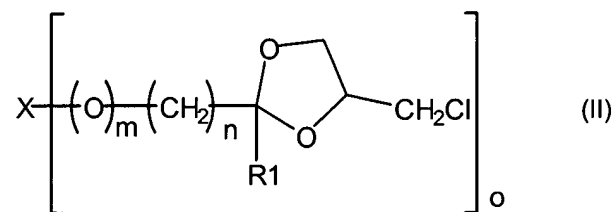


U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/934,655
Amendment filed August 16, 2004
Reply to OA dated May 19, 2004

wherein $q \leq (6-o)$, $r \leq (8-o)$, R2 denotes H or a C₁-C₄-alkyl group and A denotes a single bond or denotes -C(CH₃)₂-, -C(CF₃)₂-, -CH₂-, -SO₂- or -(C=O)-, and wherein the 2-position of the 1,3-dioxolane ring is not linked directly to an aromatic group,

the process comprising the steps of:

treating a 4-chloromethyl-1,3-dioxolane compound of the general formula (II):



wherein R1, m, n, o and X have the same meaning, respectively, as those defined for general formula (I) above,

with a base at a temperature from 0°C to 150°C to obtain a reaction product; and

isolating the reaction product in accordance with a *per se* known process, wherein the base is potassium-*tert.*-butylate.

Claims 10-13 (Canceled).

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. **09/934,655**
Amendment filed August 16, 2004
Reply to OA dated **May 19, 2004**

Claim 14 (Original): A composition capable of emission-free, photocationic cross-linking comprising at least one 4-methylene-1,3-dioxolane compound according to claim 1 and at least one photo-initiator.

Claim 15 (Original): The composition according to claim 14, wherein the photo-initiator comprises a triaryl sulfonium salt or a diaryl iodonium salt.

Claim 16 (Original): A transparent film obtained from a composition according to claim 14 or 15.

Claim 17 (Canceled).

Claim 18 (Previously Presented): The 4-methylene-1,3-dioxolane compound according to claim 1, being 2,2'-oxybismethylene-bis-(4-methylene-1,3-dioxolane).

Claim 19 (Canceled).

Claim 20 (Previously Presented): The 4-methylene-1,3-dioxolane compound according to claim 1, being the product of the reaction of diglycolaldehyde and 3-chloro-1,2-propandiol.

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/934,655
Amendment filed August 16, 2004
Reply to OA dated May 19, 2004

Claim 21 (Canceled).

Claim 22 (Previously Presented): The 4-methylene-1,3-dioxolane compound according to claim 1, being
2,2'-oxybis(ethyleneoxymethylene)-bis-(4-methylene-1,3-dioxolane).

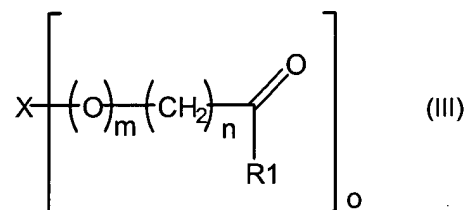
Claim 23 (Canceled).

Claim 24 (Currently Amended): The 4-methylene-1,3-dioxolane compound according to claim 1, made by the steps of synthesizing an acetal compound by reacting a compound selected from the group consisting of chloroacetaldehyde dimethylacetal, bromoacetaldehyde dimethylacetal, chloroacetaldehyde diethylacetal and bromoacetaldehyde diethylacetal with diethylene glycol to form a resulting acetal compound followed by reacting said resulting acetal compound with 3-chloro-1,2-propandiol to give a 4-chloromethyl-1,3-dioxolane compound;
treating the obtained 4-chloromethyl-1,3-dioxolane compound with a base at a
temperature from 15°C and 60°C to obtain a reaction product; and
isolating the reaction product in accordance with a *per se* known process.

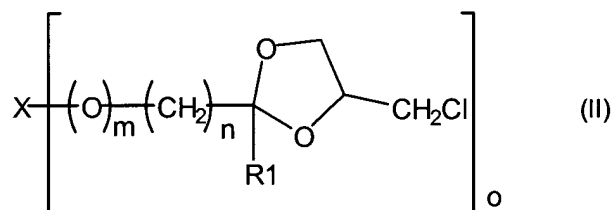
Claim 25 (Canceled).

Claim 26 (New): The process according to claim 6, wherein the process comprises the steps of

1) reacting a compound of the general formula (III):



wherein R1, m, n, o and X have the same meanings as those defined for general formula (I) in claim 6, respectively, with 3-chloro-1,2-propanediol to give a 4-chloromethyl-1,3-dioxolane compound of the general formula (II):

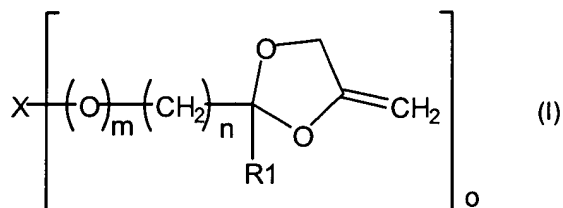


wherein R1, m, n, o and X have the same meaning, respectively, as those defined for general formula (I) in claim 6;

2) removing the resulting reaction water by distillation to isolate the 4-chloromethyl-1,3-dioxolane compound;

3) treating the obtained 4-chloromethyl-1,3-dioxolane compound with a base at a temperature from 15°C and 60°C to give a 4-methylene-1,3-dioxolane compound of the general formula (I):

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/934,655
Amendment filed August 16, 2004
Reply to OA dated May 19, 2004



wherein R_1 , m , n , o and X have the same meanings, respectively, as those defined for general formula (I) in claim 6; and

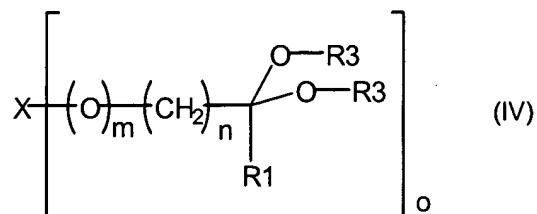
4) isolating the 4-methylene-1,3-dioxolane compound in accordance with a *per se* known process.

Claim 27 (New): The process according to claim 26, wherein the step 1) is carried out in the presence of a catalyst.

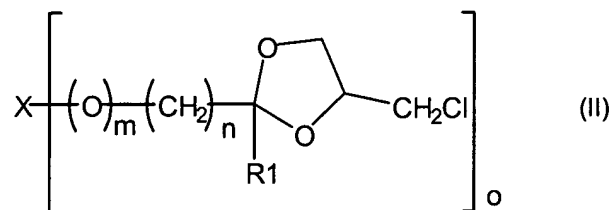
Claim 28 (New): The process according to claim 26 or 27, wherein an entrainer is used in the step 1).

Claim 29 (New): The process according to claim 6, wherein the process comprises the steps of

1) treating an acetal of the general formula (IV):



wherein R1, m, n, o and X have the same meanings as those defined for general formula (I) in claim 6, respectively, and R3 denotes a methyl or ethyl group, with 3-chloro-1,2-propanediol in the presence of an acidic catalyst at a temperature from 25°C to 150°C to give a 4-chloromethyl-1,3-dioxolane compound of the general formula (II):

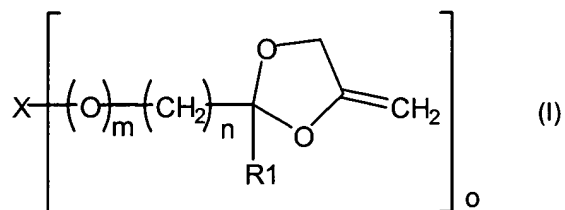


wherein R1, m, n, o and X have the same meaning, respectively, as those defined for general formula (I) in claim 6;

2) removing the resulting alcohol by distillation;

3) treating the obtained 4-chloromethyl-1,3-dioxolane compound with a base at a temperature from 15°C and 60°C to give a 4-methylene-1,3-dioxolane compound of the general formula (I):

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/934,655
Amendment filed August 16, 2004
Reply to OA dated May 19, 2004



wherein $\text{R}1$, m , n , o and X have the same meanings, respectively, as those defined for general formula (I) in claim 6; and

4) isolating the 4-methylene-1,3-dioxolane compound in accordance with a per se known process.